

**Table 3-18: Guided Mountaineering by Concessioners on Mount McKinley, 1997-2001.**

Routes	Expeditions #	#	Climbers % Summiting	User Nights
West Buttress				
1997	27	266	55%	4,836
1998	32	266	24%	4,447
1999	29	289	44%	5,162
2000	30	261	54%	4,844
2001	33	290	67%	5,017
Annual Average	30	274	49%	4,861
West Buttress Traverse				
1997	3	32	81%	704
1998	3	35	57%	793
1999	2	24	0%	480
2000	3	27	67%	486
2001	3	32	84%	651
Annual Average	3	30	58%	623
Muldrow				
1997	1	15	100%	420
1998	1	15	80%	420
1999	1	14	86%	420
2000	1	14	79%	420
2001	0	0	0%	0
Annual Average	.8	12	69%	336
Other Routes				
1997	4	21	0%	357
1998	0	0	0%	0
1999	1	7	0%	140
2000	1	7	57%	133
2001	1	7	100%	112
Annual Average	1	8	31%	148
Total McKinley				
1997	35	334	56%	6,317
1998	36	316	31%	5,660
1999	33	334	41%	6,202
2000	35	309	56%	5,463
2001	37	329	69%	5,780
Annual Average	35	324	51%	5,884

Source: Denali National Park and Preserve Climber Database

including: Alaska-Denali Guiding, Alpine Ascents International, American Alpine Institute, Mountain Trip, National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), and Rainier Mountaineering. Additionally, seven businesses (Alaska Mountaineering School, Colorado Mountain School, Fantasy Ridge Alpinism, Mountain and Rivers, Mountain Link, Sierra Mountain Center, and Trails Wilderness School) had Incidental Business Permits to climb peaks outside the “Old Park.”

Table 3-18 (Guided Mountaineering by Concessioners on Mount McKinley, 1997-2001) summarizes data for Mount McKinley submitted by permitted mountaineering concessioners to the NPS. The number of guided mountaineers has been very consistent in that five-year period, ranging from 309 to 334 with an annual average of 324. The average length for a guided climb is a little longer than the overall average – 18 days for the West Buttress and 21 days for all routes. Commercial mountaineering guides may take up to 18 clients every two weeks on Mount McKinley under the conditions of their concession permits.

Costs of guided ascents on Mount McKinley can range from \$3,500 to \$6,900 per person, depending on the guide service and route. That cost does not include personal gear, air transportation to Anchorage and accommodations. Guided ascents on other peaks vary in cost, depending on the peak, route, and party size for the expedition.

The amount of guided activity on peaks and glaciers besides Mount McKinley has risen rapidly in just the last two years, from the range of 90-100 mountaineers per season in 1997-1999 to about 275 in 2002. Table 3-19 shows the amount of use at those guided mountaineering destinations.